

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

28 February 1952

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Brig.	Gen.	F.	Trubee	Davison

Dear Trubee:

I was distressed to hear of your illness when I got back from New York yesterday morning.

Don't try to push things too fast, but get a good rest and get well. I will be in touch with your progress continuously.

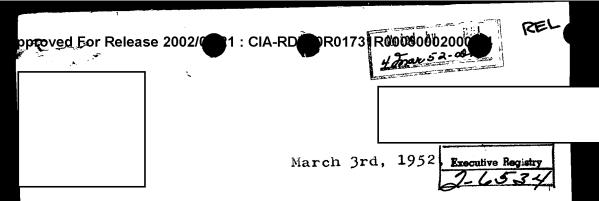
With great appreciation and all best wishes,

Faithfully,

/s/ Bedell

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Dear General Smith:

Your letter to General Davison has arrived in his absence in the south where he is trying to regain his strength from his recent illness. I believe he plans to return on Sunday next, but will go directly back to the hospital for further check-up. I know he will bein touch with you immediately upon his arrival.

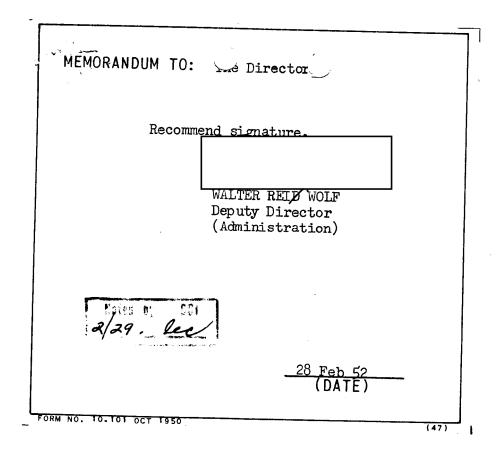
Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Ella B. Ransom

Secretary

General Bedell Smith, Central Intelligence Agency, Washington, D. C.

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September 11th, 1952.

Dear Allen:

with reference to our telephone conversation of today, the proposed expedition to Sarawak which would be conducted by my wife and myself, would be under the auspices of The American Museum of Natural History. In broad terms, the purpose is to obtain documentary motion pictures of the tribal life and collect artifacts used by the various tribes. I am naturally concerned to know whether or not the political conditions are suitable and safe.

Our contact in Sarawak is one Tom Harrisson, Government Ethnologist and Curator of the Sarawak Museum. I am enclosing copy of a letter which has just been received by the head of the Department of Anthropology at the American Museum who is organizing our end of the trip. I thought you might be interested in seeing Mr. Harrisson's letter.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

F. Trubee Davison

Mr. Allen W. Dulles, 2430 E Street, NW., Washington, D. C.

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SARAWAK MUSEUM SARAWAK, KUCHING

Tom Harrisson
Government Ethnologist and Curator

August 23, 1952.

Dear Shapiro:

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I had got a considerable way in investigating the houseboat and other possibilities and arrangements when unfortunately the political trouble struck out here for the first time. There is now a state of emergency declared. It is therefore not practicable to plan very much for the moment. For instance, all vessels are liable to requisitions, movement of non-official persons restricted, and the general atmosphere uncertain. Moreover, I myself, having had a good deal of experience in jungle warfare, etc. naturally am exceptionally busy both trying to do my own work and the emergency work.

If the position continues as at present, it is not unpleasantly serious. But at the same time I do not think that any responsible government officer would welcome a visit of the character previously proposed - and when you wrote the proposal seemed an excellent one. It is to be hoped that the situation will much improve. But this is always somewhat doubtful owing to the way in which these things work.

Under these circumstances I really think that I must recommend that the plan is postponed for the time being.

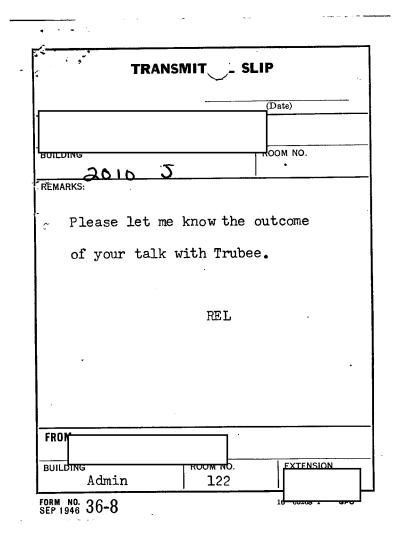
What, in any case, are your own views on this subject? Would you please write to me about it. I don't want you to think that I am being unhelpful or obstructive, but it looks to me as if individual travel to the upriver points (the only ones of interest) is liable to be severely limited for some considerable time ahead.

Yours sincerely

ss Tom Harrisson

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

INSTRUCTIONS.—Officer designations should be used in the "TO" column. Under each comment a line should be drawn across sheet and each comment numbered to correspond with the number in the "TO" column. Each officer should initial (check mark insufficient) before further routing. This Record and Routing Sheet should be returned to Registry.

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